

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A roasting oven comprising:
  - an outer housing having a lid member;
  - 5 a heating well residing within said housing, said heating well having a bottom surface with integrally formed sidewalls and an open top defining an interior cavity;
  - a removable cooking liner conforming to said interior cavity and residing therein;
  - heating means including a wrap-around heating element disposed about said
  - 10 heating well, said heating element formed by wrapping heating wire about an insulating material having a plurality of notches formed in the lateral edges thereof at periodic intervals such that said heating wire is engaged within said notches in a repeating pattern, said heating wire being joined at the terminal ends thereof with a bundle of metallic conductors to form a heat sink; and
  - 15 temperature controlling means electrically interconnected to said heating means for regulating the temperature of said heating element.
2. The roasting oven of Claim 1 wherein said insulating material is constructed in the form of an elongated belt.
3. The roasting oven of Claim 2 wherein said heating wire is alternately
- 20 traversed across said insulating material between diagonally opposed pairs of said notches and then interlaced between adjacent pairs of said notches in a predetermined pattern such that at least 75% of said heating wire is disposed on a first side of said elongated belt.
4. The roasting oven of Claim 2 wherein said heating wire is wrapped
- 25 in continuous revolutions about said elongated belt between diagonally opposed pairs of said notches to produce said repeating pattern.
5. The roasting oven of Claim 2 wherein said elongated belt including said heating wire is captured between interior and exterior sheets of heat insulating material to form a heater belt assembly.
- 30 6. The roasting oven of Claim 5 wherein said heater belt assembly includes a plurality of slotted holes extending through said elongated belt and said interior and

exterior sheets of heat insulating material, said slotted holes being formed in predetermined locations to simultaneously engage a plurality of mounting studs without binding when said heater belt assembly is wrapped around said heating well.

7. The roasting oven of Claim 1 wherein said terminal ends of said heating wire  
5 and said conductors are provided with a terminal connector loop to form a lead wire assembly.

8. The roasting oven of Claim 7 wherein said lead wire assembly further includes a plurality of ceramic insulation sleeves disposed thereon to insulate said temperature controlling means from said heating wire.

10 9. The roasting oven of Claim 1 wherein said temperature controlling means includes a thermostat.

10. The roasting oven of Claim 9 further including a food serving set comprising an array of food containers residing within said interior cavity of said cooking liner for heating food items.

15 11. The roasting oven of Claim 10 wherein said cooking liner is generally rectangular in configuration.

12. The roasting oven of Claim 11 wherein said food serving set comprises three generally rectangular food containers arranged in side-by-side relation including an outer pair of food containers each having a D-shaped peripheral flange and a central food  
20 container having a rectangular peripheral flange with lateral edges, said containers residing in overlying relation to an inner peripheral edge of said cooking liner.

13. The roasting oven of Claim 12 wherein said lateral edges of said rectangular peripheral flange are formed at a predetermined angular offset to engage the adjacent edges of said D-shaped peripheral flanges to secure said outer pair of containers  
25 in position.

14. The roasting oven of Claim 11 wherein said food serving set comprises three generally rectangular food containers including a single large container having a D-shaped peripheral flange and a pair of smaller containers each having a modified rectangular peripheral flange, said containers residing in overlying relation to an inner  
30 peripheral edge of said cooking liner.

15. The roasting oven of Claim 14 wherein said single large container includes a

locating protuberance formed on said D-shaped peripheral flange for aligning said pair of smaller containers in side-by-side relation on said cooking liner.

16. A roasting oven for use in combination with a food serving set comprising:  
an outer housing having a lid member;

5 a heating well residing within said housing, said heating well having a bottom surface with integrally formed sidewalls and an open top defining an interior cavity;  
a removable cooking liner conforming to said interior cavity and residing therein;  
a wrap-around heating belt disposed about said heating well and positioned intermediate said housing and said heating well, said wrap-around heating belt formed by  
10 wrapping heating wire about an insulating material having a plurality of notches formed in the lateral edges thereof at periodic intervals such that said heating wire can be engaged within said notches in a repeating pattern, said heating wire being joined at the terminal ends thereof with a bundle of conductors to form a heat sink;

an thermostat electrically interconnected to said wrap-around heating belt for  
15 regulating cooking temperature; and

a plurality of food containers comprising said food serving set, said food containers residing within said interior cavity of said cooking liner for heating food items contained therein.

17. The roasting oven of Claim 16 wherein said cooking liner is generally  
20 rectangular in configuration.

18. The roasting oven of Claim 17 wherein said food serving set comprises three generally rectangular food containers of equal volume arranged in side-by-side relation including an outer pair of food containers each having a D-shaped peripheral flange and a central food container having a rectangular peripheral flange with lateral edges, said  
25 containers residing in overlying relation to an inner peripheral edge of said cooking liner.

19. The roasting oven of Claim 18 wherein said lateral edges of said rectangular peripheral flange are formed at a predetermined angular offset to engage said D-shaped peripheral flanges to secure said outer pair of containers in position.

20. The roasting oven of Claim 17 wherein said food serving set comprises three  
30 generally rectangular food containers including a single large container having a D-shaped peripheral flange and a pair of smaller containers each having a modified

rectangular peripheral flange, said containers residing in overlying relation to an inner peripheral edge of said cooking liner.

21. The roasting oven of Claim 20 wherein said single large container includes a locating protuberance formed on said D-shaped peripheral flange for aligning said pair of  
5 smaller containers in side-by-side relation on said cooking liner.

22. The roasting oven of Claim 16 wherein said heating wire is alternately traversed across said insulating material between diagonally opposed pairs of said notches and then interlaced between adjacent pairs of said notches in a predetermined pattern such that at least 75% of said heating wire is disposed on a first side of said wrap-  
10 round heating belt.

23. The roasting oven of Claim 16 wherein said heating wire is drawn in continuous revolutions about said insulating material between diagonally opposed pairs of said notches to produce said repeating pattern.

24. The roasting oven of Claim 16 wherein said heating belt including said  
15 heating wire is captured between interior and exterior sheets of heat insulating material to form a heater belt assembly.

25. The roasting oven of Claim 24 wherein said heater belt assembly includes a plurality of slotted holes extending through said elongated belt and said interior and exterior sheets of heat insulating material, said slotted holes being formed in  
20 predetermined locations to simultaneously engage a plurality of mounting studs without binding when said heater belt assembly is wrapped around said heating well.

26. The roasting oven of Claim 16 wherein said terminal ends of said heating wire and said conductors are provided with a terminal connector loop to form a lead wire assembly.

27. The roasting oven of Claim 26 wherein said lead wire assembly further  
25 includes a plurality of ceramic insulation sleeves disposed thereon to insulate said temperature controlling means from said heating wire.